



Issue 19 September 28, 2007

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Items of Interest:

- **Rear Adm. Thomas R. Cullison** is being assigned as deputy chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Washington. Cullison is currently assigned as commander, Navy Medicine East/commander, Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, Va.
- **Capt. Alton L. Stocks** has been selected for rear admiral lower half and is being assigned as fleet surgeon, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk, Va. Stocks is currently assigned as force surgeon, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, Naples, Italy.

Navy and Marine Corps Medical News

A Public Affairs Publication of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Hospital Corpsman Named USO Sailor of the Year

By Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW/AW) Bill Houlihan, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Public Affairs

WASHINGTON - Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (FMF) Samuel S. Jordan received the United Services Organization (USO) Sailor of the Year Award Sept. 20 in Washington, D.C. at the 2007 USO World Gala.

Jordan was selected due in large part to his actions in Iraq while assigned to the 1st Battalion, 25th Marine detachment.

Hours before he was recognized for saving the lives of Marines and Iraqi civilians on multiple occasions, he was the guest of Master Chief

Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa, Jr.

"It's going to be a busy 24 hours for you," Campa told him. "But I wanted to bring you [to the Navy annex] to personally thank you for your bravery and your dedication to this nation."

The USO Gala honored a service member of the year from each branch of the military, each of them below the rank of E-7, and each for valorous actions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Jordan and his fellow honorees were joined at the Gala by Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England, as well as

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Collaborative Multi-Agency Exercise, Hosted by National Naval Medical Center Bethesda Thursday, October 18, 2007



The Bethesda Hospitals' Emergency Preparedness Partnership is conducting a Mass Casualty Exercise on the campus of the National Naval Medical Center to test and evaluate the interoperability of the Partnership's emergency response personnel with local, state and federal agencies. The exercise will highlight the continued expansion of our regional disaster response program and you are cordially invited to witness this unprecedented integration of private, federal and military assets in action.

Media queries and requests for more information should be directed to the National Naval Medical Center Public Affairs Office at 301-295-0584.

Please RSVP to Ms. Ginny Raderstorff, Head of Executive and Legislative Affairs, by e-mail at ExecLeg@bethesda.med.navy.mil or to (301)319-4143 by 9 October.

Livermore Natives First Twin Grads From Navy Nurse Officer Program

By Lt. Cmdr. Shari Kennedy
Naval School of Health Services
Portsmouth Public Affairs Officer

NAVAL SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES, PORTSMOUTH, Va. –

Livermore natives Jerry and Terry Brown like to do things together. After all, they were born together. So it only makes sense that the twin brothers would join the Navy together, be assigned together at their first duty station, go through college together, and be commissioned here together as Navy Nurse Corps officers.

Ensigns Jerry and Terry Brown are the sons of Livermore residents Tom and Colleen "CoCo" Brown. Tom is a farmer as well as a construction business owner, and CoCo owns a gift shop.

The new Navy nurses are the first twins to graduate from the Navy's Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program, or MECP. MECP allows enlisted personnel to earn a nursing degree and be commissioned as an ensign. They com-

pleted their bachelor's degree in nursing, graduating in August from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va. The Naval School of Health Sciences provides administrative oversight for the MECP program. Ensigns Terry and Jerry Brown both chose the Navy Nursing field because of the opportunity to serve others.

"I chose nursing because it was the best way for me to provide the greatest patient care," Jerry said. "I always felt I could do more for the Navy, military members, family members, and myself as a Nurse Corps officer."

For Terry, "becoming a Nurse Corps officer was a long-term goal when I enlisted in the Navy," he described. "I have a strong desire to become a talented and caring Nurse Corps officer. I believe that nursing is the backbone of medicine with many opportunities to enhance both learning and teaching."

Jerry and Terry Brown are two of six children, all from Livermore. There are three boys and three



NAVAL SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES, PORTSMOUTH, Va. – Navy Nurse Corps officers Ensign Jerry Brown and Ensign Terry Brown, are the first set of twins to graduate from the Navy's Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program. *U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Cmdr. Shari Kennedy*

girls. The twins are the two youngest. All attended Twin Rivers High School in Bode, though the twins

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Service Members Use New Alternative to Combat Stress with Virtual Reality Therapy

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (AW) Mae-bel Tinoko, Fleet Public Affairs Center, Det. Northwest

TACOMA, Wash. - Madigan Army Medical Center offered an alternative to combat stress with virtual reality (VR) therapy for individuals returning from deployment on Sept. 13.

"This past summer the Madigan Army Medical Clinic recently began using virtual reality therapy to help treat post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)," said Greg Reger, clinical psychologist. "Service members returning from war who have been affected by PTSD may turn to alcohol or other substance abuse without treatment. Through these therapy sessions we are able to evaluate if further help is needed."

According to Reger, the idea is to simulate the reintroduction of the experiences which caused trauma to the patient to help them face reality by talking about their experiences.

During each session the patient wears a mounted headset and earphones while sitting on a platform that creates vibrations simulating a realistic scenario of being in a convoy or walking around an Iraqi village. A

therapist can add or remove sounds of gunshots and even add smells to trigger other senses as a way to help veterans recall events. The patient is able to manage where they move by remote control and the doctor manages the scenario as a way to generate realism.

"VR is definitely a realistic and a great program for the military," said Pfc. Brandon Jones, Madigan Army Medical Clinic. "The special effects are awesome and it's amazing to see where technology is taking us."

VR therapy was created through a joint project through the Institute for Creative Technologies, the University of Southern California, and the Office of Navy Research.

"I think virtual reality will help many patients deal with combat stress and help get out an array of emotion," said Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman (SW/FMF) Alan Garrigus, Naval Base Kitsap, Bangor, Medical Clinic senior enlisted leader. "I think it's a great idea for the military to use this therapy. I hope it will be available in more facilities. Many individual augmentees don't know how to deal with the stress when they return home and want to bottle their emotions. Through virtual reality they are able to talk about their experiences and it's a healthy way to deal with stress."

Marines Honor Two Navy Hospital Corpsmen

By Deborah R. Kallgren, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth Public Affairs Office

NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER PORTSMOUTH, Va. – The U.S. Marine Corps honored two Navy corpsmen with the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (with combat distinguishing device) for their service while deployed to Iraq. On behalf of the Marines, Rear Adm. Thomas Cullison, Commander, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, presented the medals in a ceremony Sept. 14 at the hospital.

The citations, signed on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy by Maj. Gen. Richard C. Zilmer, Commanding General, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), recognize the heroic achievement in each Sailor's superior performance while serving as an individual augmentee – or "doc" – to the Marines in Iraq.

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class (FMF) Royce A. Ross served as Platoon Corpsman with Mobile Assault Platoon 3, Weapons Company, 2d Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6, Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) from August 2006 to February 2007. The citation recognizes his actions in saving an Iraqi child who had fallen from a three-story building in Al Karmah and subsequently getting her safely to medical facilities.

Ross' citation reads, "On 5 December, after his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device, Petty Officer Ross evaluated and treated the marines of his vehicle despite being injured himself. He consistently placed the needs of both Marine and Iraqi patients above his own and delivered quality medical care under extreme circumstances."

Ross said, "When my truck was hit by an improvised explosive device I received a grade 1 concussion. Many others were injured much worse than I was." The 24-

year-old Surgical Technician works in NMCP's Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinic. He lives in Portsmouth and is a native of Newport, Tenn. He has been in the Navy for three and a half years.

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class (FMF) John E. Scott served as Corpsman, 2d Platoon, Company E, 2d Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 7, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) from July to December 2006. Scott participated in more than 150 combat patrols and other counterinsurgency missions in and around the cities of Rawah, Anah, and Reyanah, Iraq.

Scott's citation reads, "On multiple occasions, Hospitalman Scott treated severely wounded patients resulting from enemy action to include Marines, Iraqi Security Forces and local nationals. In each instance, he responded quickly, effectively and calmly while applying the appropriate treatment for the wound. His attention to his patients, regardless of affiliation and security situation, was exceptional and always resulted in the preservation of life and limb."

Scott was recently promoted to petty officer third class. He has been in the Navy nearly three years and works in the medical records department at the naval hospital. He lives in Chesapeake and is a native of Ridgecrest, Calif.

At the ceremony, Cullison said, "We have two heroes in our midst today. They took care of Marines and took care of people in harm's way and excelled at it. They deserve our admiration."

The Achievement Medal is designated as an award for junior personnel. The combat distinguishing device, or Valor device, is for specific heroic acts during or supporting direct combat with the enemy. The award must be personally recommended by a superior and is not an automatic decoration or upgrade.

USO SOY continued...

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representatives from Hollywood and the music industry. The event was hosted by NBC's Chris Matthews.

Jordan was humbled by the experience, and said he feels there are many others who deserve the honor bestowed on him at the Gala.

"I feel like I don't deserve this. What I did happens every day over there," said Jordan.

Campa, a corpsman for 18 years before becoming a command master chief in 1999, emphasized to Jordan his responsibilities as a result of his selection as USO

Sailor of the Year.

"A whole fleet of corpsmen will be looking up to this Sailor, for very good reason. He distinguished himself in battle, and I have no doubt he'll continue to do so as a leader the rest of his career," said Campa.

Jordan traveled to Washington, D.C. from his current duty station at Naval Health Clinic New England, Groton, Conn. He was joined at the event by Army Spc. Marion D. Pettus III, Marine Corps Sgt. Justin L. Clough, Air Force Senior Airman Nicole P. O'Hara and Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Daniel J. Walsh.



Medical Personnel Relieve Sailors, Take Charge of Surgical Facility

By Cpl. Andrew Kalwitz, 2nd Marine Logistics Group

AL TAQADDUM, Iraq - The Sept. 15 arrival of 2nd Supply Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), brought the medical personnel at Taqaddum's surgical facility just what the doctor ordered: replacements.

Less than two weeks later, those incoming sailors have taken full control of the facility.

"We'll be using skills we don't usually use back in the mainland," said Lt. Cmdr. Steve D. Hoag, a family physician with Taqaddum Surgical Detachment, 2nd Supply Battalion, 2nd MLG (Fwd). "It's a great time to learn and grow physically, mentally, spiritually, and professionally."

Hoag said he is confident in the staff, but still there's always training to ensure patients receive the best treatment possible.

"They're getting better care here than probably a lot of places back in the states," Hoag explained. "Hopefully that allows them to do their job with more comfort, know-

ing they can be patched up quickly."

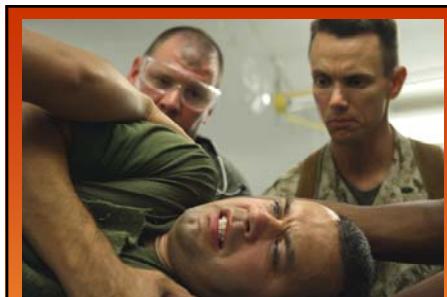
The outgoing personnel provided this reassurance to service members for approximately seven months. With the arrival of the new group, they found themselves on the receiving end of such relief as they redeployed less than a week later.

Now, without the guidance of the redeployed sailors, the new medical staff hopes to be just as proficient at taking on their mission. Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Marcus K. Billingsley, a hospital corpsman with the detachment, explained this responsibility, which he said is of immeasurable importance.

"We provide medical care to the sick and the wounded, whether it's enemies or allies," he said proudly. "If they didn't have medical care here, there would be a lot of untreated casualties."

Billingsley said he extended his Navy contract to deploy just for the experience.

Many of the new medical staff



AL TAQADDUM, Iraq - Lt. Cmdr. David W. Champ acts as a patient during a training exercise Sept. 13. Champ is among many other sailors who arrived to relieve the medical staff who had served since March. Champ serves the staff as an emergency physician. *U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Andrew Kalwitz*

have had this experience before, which may prove to be beneficial in the coming months. One sailor even served as a soldier in the U.S. Army for eight years as a combat medical specialist. She is now a lab technician with the detachment and has deployed to Cuba, Panama, Haiti,

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Twins continued...

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are the first of the Brown family to graduate from college. Their brother, Paul, lives in Fort Dodge. Their oldest sister, Tina Sierra, lives in Storm Lake; their middle sister, Dawn Fedkenheuer, lives in Clarion; and the youngest sister, Barbara Altman, lives in Algona.

Both Jerry and Terry completed their prerequisite college classes via the Navy's Tuition Assistance Program, which covers 100% of tuition. The Montgomery GI Bill covered the Old Dominion costs, including tuition, books, uniforms and parking fees.

Sailors often attend several junior colleges and universities during their off duty time at various duty assignment locations when preparing for the MECP or other Navy college education programs. Such was the case for the Browns.

"I used tuition assistance to complete most of my prerequisites and also earn an associate's degree as a physical therapy assistant in 2001 from Gateway Technical College in Kenosha, Wis.," Jerry said. "I also attended Park University out of Parkville, Mo., while stationed in Corpus Christi, Texas, via distance learning; Tidewater

Community College in Chesapeake, Va.; American Intercontinental University on-line; and Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Va."

Terry entered Old Dominion already holding a bachelor's degree in liberal arts earned during off-duty hours from Excelsior College in Albany, NY.

"I used the Navy's tuition assistance program and took night classes from Park College in Corpus Christi, Texas; Pensacola Junior College in Pensacola, Fla.; and Tidewater Community College in Portsmouth."

The Livermore twins served as enlisted hospital corpsmen for 10 years prior to entering Old Dominion in August 2005. Jerry served as a physical therapy technician at Great Lakes Naval Hospital in Illinois and at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Va. Terry served as an ophthalmic surgical technical technician at Naval Hospital Pensacola, Fla., and with Jerry at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth.

The new Navy nurses are en route to their new duty assignments. Ensign Jerry Brown will be stationed at the Navy's Ambulatory Care Clinic at Great Lakes, Ill. Ensign Terry Brown will be stationed at the Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, NC.



ARIMA, Trinidad and Tobago - Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Michelle Tilley, attached to Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20), gives a patient an immunization shot at the Arima Health Facility Sept. 17. *U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joshua Karsten*

Yokosuka Hosts Multinational Military Medicine Conference

By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Bryan Reckard, Fleet Public Affairs Det. Japan

YOKOSUKA, Japan - U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka, Japan hosted the 5th Annual Multinational Military Medicine Conference Sept. 17-19.

Military medical professionals from the United States, Japan, Australia, Malaysia, and India attended the three-day event that brought friends and allies together to increase functionality between coalition partners.

Capt. Michael Krentz, Commander, U.S. Naval Hospital talked about the significance of gathering multinational health care providers for the conference.

"These are the very same countries that are going to work together in the event of perhaps a combat situation," Krentz said. "More importantly, in the event of a humanitarian assistance or a disaster relief situation."

According to Krentz, learning from people with hands-on experience is important.

"You can get all kinds of theoretical knowledge off the Internet, that you can get on a CD-ROM, that you can get in a book and you have to know that stuff," said

Krentz. "But hearing it from the 'been there, done that, got the pictures to show you,' kind of guys I think really makes it more real."

According to Rear Adm. Gregory Timberlake, Command Surgeon, U.S. Joint Forces Command, with new developments in science, it is important to notify our allies about what changes are being made in the medical field.

"We need to not only let our people in the U.S. military know what the changes are, but we need to let our friends, allies and our coalition partners know what we're thinking," said Timberlake.

Over the course of the conference military medical professionals from the different countries offered presentations and shared their experiences.

The conference enhanced the unification necessary to fight terrorism.

"We are not going to succeed in this [global] war on terrorism] just with a military force," said Timberlake. "It has to be, what is called now, unified action. In other words all the forces that we can bring to bear."



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Korea, Japan, and Saudi Arabia during Operations Desert Shield and Storm.

The medical staff's involvement will range from treating service members with illnesses or work-related injuries to treating everything from combat injuries to mass

casualties from the local area, as the redeployed sailors did last February when a truck bomb killed dozens and injured many more. Though violence in the area has greatly declined since then, the staff said they have prepared to take on any task.

Got News? If you'd like to submit an article or have an idea for one, contact MEDNEWS at 202-762-3221, fax 202-762-1705 or Christine.mahoney@med.navy.mil.